

Spark Gap

Volume 23, Issue 4, April 2006

Tornados Confirmed in Johnson and Shelby Counties

Severe Storms Occur Two Weeks in a Row

Spring and April in Indiana began with a bang. The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed that a tornado touched down in Johnson and Shelby counties on Friday, March 31st. The tornado first touched down just west of I-65 where it did some structural damage in the South Park Industrial area. It then crossed I-65 causing a tractor

trailer to be blown off the road and other accidents. The tornado remained north of Main Street/Rocklane Road across the remainder of Johnson County. The worst of the damage occurred to two homes, both of which lost their roofs and were uninhabitable. In Shelby County, the tornado caused tree and roof damage to homes until it reached the I-74/London Road area. The tornado reached its maximum width in the area and caused F2 type damage to several homes on both sides of the interstate. Another area in southern Shelby County was damaged by extreme high winds in the area along State Highway 252 to the west of Flat Rock.
(Information provided by NWS)

On Sunday, April 2, 2006, the Johnson County SKYWARN net was activated at the request of NWS in Indianapolis. A severe weather system was moving through the area including Johnson County. A severe thunderstorm followed by a tornado warning were issued for the County.

Net control for Johnson County was KB9WIH, Luke Latham with KC9EBL,

Brenda Haler our NWS liaison. Mobile Stations included KC9EKR, Scott Coombs; KB9NMR, John Gyrkey; W9JJS, Jerry Schantz; KA9ZPA, Joe Vergara; and W8ISH, Jack Parker. Portable Stations included KC9FXR, Steve Ivins; and AA9YP, Jay Chrisman. Fixed Stations included KB9SKI, Ernest Clark in Greenwood; KB9RBB Tom Achors in Fairland; W9DEW Don West in Greenwood; KB9LOT Dave Dailey in White River Township; WB9 DMM HS in Greenwood; KB9SRA Jason Richardson in Franklin; N9LC Steve Brown in Franklin; KF9LQ Joe Rogers in Franklin; KB9NOG Barb Rogers in Franklin; W9HY Larry Kemp in Franklin; N9QJA Mike Smith in Greenwood and N1IU Jim Kerr in Greenwood.

Tis the Season!

Total count was 21 Amateurs with eyes to the sky. Total net time was 65 minutes.

On April 7, 2006, Johnson County SKYWARN was again activated by NWS due to severe weather moving through the area. A severe thunderstorm warning was issued for the county. Net control for Johnson County was KB9WIH, Luke Latham with KC9EBL, Brenda Haler our NWS liaison. Mobile Stations included W8ISH, Jack Parker; KC9EBL, Brenda Haler (who later assumed liaison duties from a fixed location) KB9UJE, Matt Payne, and KB9LOT, Dave Dailey. Fixed Stations included WD9DVA Ed Woods in Greenwood; W9HY Larry Kemp in Franklin; KB9SRA Jason Richardson in Franklin; and N9SIU Bob LaGrange in Greenwood.

Total count was 9 Amateurs with a total net time of 95 minutes.



ARRL Alabama SM Greg Sarratt, W4OZK (second from left), testifies before the FCC Katrina response panel meeting March 7 in Jackson, Mississippi.

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*

MARC

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P.O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

ARRL "Hello" Campaign Video Now Available

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 6, 2006—A 30-second video public service announcement (PSA) to promote the ARRL's "Hello"



campaign—"Celebrating 100 Years of Voice over Radio Worldwide"—has been released. A radio spot has been available since March. The architect of the Hello campaign, ARRL Media and Public Relations

Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the spot is available on disk in either DVD format—which plays on standard players—or in two larger broadcast-quality DV formats.

"We want to celebrate 100 years of people talking over the radio but not just look backward," he said. "In just 30 seconds, this video takes us on a rollercoaster through time and electronics, into today, when we find friendly people still ready to say 'Hello' all over the world."

Richard Lubash, N1VXW, of 2K-Plus in Atlanta, produced the new PSA. He had musical help from Emory Gordy, W4WRO, and voicing by New York City radio personality Johnny Donovan.

Hams from All Over

The video includes clips from all over, shot especially for the PSA, including video of radio amateurs from IARU member-societies in Italy and Japan. Among the radio amateurs appearing in the video spot are Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) President Luigi Belvederi, I4AWX/AB1FJ, and Japan Amateur Radio League International Affairs Manager Jay Oka, JA1TRC/KH2J.

Also on camera: Jack Parker, W8ISH; Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, and his son Chris, N5CMO; Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, and wife Cyndy, KD4ACW; Nick Esposito, KC2ONP; Halley Orshan, KC2LYJ; and Emily Shaffer,

KF4SUV.

Various Versions Available

A low-resolution version is viewable on the ARRL [Public Relations Web page](#) (scroll down to "Video Files"), but Pitts cautions that it's not a faithful representation of the actual video. "Too much great detail gets lost when you crunch things down to a file that small," he points out. "It really needs to be seen at least in DVD format on a TV."

A special high-definition television (HDTV) version is available if needed. Pitts called that rendition "really something wonderful!"

Because copies are individually duplicated depending on the needs of the station and because of the costs of the disks, Pitts asks that "at least initially" requests be voluntarily limited to those who have contacts with a cable, TV or similar broadcast outlet and can get them shown to the public.

Amateur Radio Celebrates 100 Years

To request a disk, [e-mail](#) the Hello campaign your name, mailing address, the station or location in which you will be placing the video and the video format you need (DVD, DV or uncompressed-DV).

Hello campaign brochures, bumper stickers pins and other paraphernalia also are available.

On the Road Again

Pitts will be on the road this month to show off (and market) the new audio and video PSAs at the annual conventions of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) April 22-27 in Las Vegas, and at a regional RTNDA convention April 8-9 in Boston.

Note: Check out the ARRL home page for additional information on the HELLO program.

Officers

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KC9EKR

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KC9EBL

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KB9JUE

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Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

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Technician license class Continues Through April

The annual MARC ham radio license class continue each Thursday night in April, at the Johnson County EOC (this is the same location as the monthly club meetings). Classes run 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the six to eight weeks, with extra time after 8:00 PM for those wanting to stick around for hands-on demonstrations of useful and interesting ham skills such as How to Solder, Simple Home-made Antennas, Morse Code demo, and practice license exams.

This class is taught by Ernest Clark, KB9SKI, and by its end students should be able to pass the examination for the Technician license. Motivated students frequently pass the exam weeks earlier. Morse code is not required for a Technician license.

The class is FREE. The class textbook is *Now You're Talking*, 5th Edition, published by the American Radio Relay League for \$20, or available through the class at the instructor's discount of \$15. To reserve a copy, or to ask any questions, contact the instructor at hamclass@midstatehams.org.

Club members—spread the news. If you find people interested who have missed the class, get their name and number. If we have enough interested we will try to coerce Ernest in holding another class.

Have You Volunteered for an Event in May?

May is chock full of events for which emergency communications are needed. Contact Mike Palmer at www.Indyhams.org for information. Don't miss this chance to practice and refine communications skills. Help make the area and events safer by volunteering!

SKYWARN CLASS

There is at least one more chance to get updated on National Weather Service spotting and reporting severe weather. NWS will be at the Fairland Fire Department on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from 10 AM to Noon. All are welcome to attend. This sponsored by the Fairland Communication Club. Come and find out how to spot and report severe weather. You don't have to be an Amateur to be a weather spotter.

IS-700 NIMS Classes

Have you completed the IS-700 class yet? If so, remember to give Linda, KC9GCH a copy. She will make sure our ARES representative, Bob LaGrange and Tug Sutton, the Johnson County EMA director a copy. If you plan on volunteering for SKYWARN or other emergency communications, it is highly recommended that you complete this course on Incident Command. If you need assistance or have questions, just ask Linda or send an email to Secretary@midstatehams.org.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/

146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

MARC Now Has Business Cards

KC9GCH has created a MARC business card. Please get a supply from Linda and pass out to people interested in joining or learning more about our club. The card includes club contact information (Linda's telephone number & secretary e-mail address), mailing address, web site address, repeater information and details on monthly meetings. So if someone wants to attend our meetings (remember these are open always to the public!) just hand them a card and everything is there.

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org, and we will record your check-in!

2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

APRIL 2006

15 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

15 Mini-Marathon 15K Pre-Race

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

18 Technician Class; 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

25 Technician Class; 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

MAY 2006

6 Johnson County Emergency Management Drill

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

6 Indianapolis 500 Mini Marathon

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

9 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting; 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Red Cross Chapter House, Indianapolis, IN

19-21 Dayton Hamvention

Dayton, OH

20 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

27 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.